

October 20, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD, 20785

9819 '00 OCT 26 P1:59

RE: Docket Number #98P-0151/CP1

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals – docket #98P-0151/CP1.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.

In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

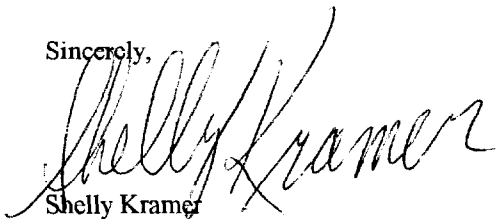
I have recently learned that it is practically impossible to move downed animals in a humane manner. They are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, extremely inhumane processes that cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

I believe that downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.

Many experts in the industry have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please carefully consider what I have said and please grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals on our factory farms.

Sincerely,



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